

REMARKS

The Official Action dated November 28, 2003 has been carefully considered. Accordingly, the changes presented herewith, taken with the following remarks, are believed sufficient to place the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-21 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to correct a typographical error. Since these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested.


In the Official Action, claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Rissman (U.S. Patent No. 6,552,743). Claim 16 has now been canceled, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection of this claim.

In the Official Action, claims 14, 15 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Rissman in view of Takahashi (U.S. Patent No. 6,504,960). Claims 14, 15 and 17-21 have now been canceled, thereby mooting the Examiner's rejection of these claims.

Finally, Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-13.

It is believed that the above represents a complete response to the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103, and places the present application in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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